

Feathery couple moves in

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SPECIAL TO THE CLIPPER

Mr. and Mrs. Canada Goose have picked the little island in Miramar Retreat Center Pond off Loring St. and Bay Road in Duxbury as their nesting place. Mr. C. Goose is quite vigilant on the outskirts of the pond and will hiss at anyone or anything that approaches his partner's area of nesting. Mrs. C. Goose spends most of her day sleeping on the nest and warming the unknown number of eggs. The most unusual characteristic of Mrs. C. Goose is that she has a bright yellow band on her neck with big black letters that read 30MK. Mr. C. Goose must find that particularly attractive because he is the most attentive and territorial partner.

In researching where the band might have been placed on Mrs. C. Goose, this ob-



Two Canada geese have taken up residence on an island in the pond at the Miramar retreat center.

server went on the computer and found the US Federal Bird Banding telephone number. The very informed US government agent informed me that Mrs. C. Goose was not banded as part of a US banding effort and that the yellow neck banding colors with black letters on a Canada Goose is part of another country's identifying code. Then in searching all the

Web sites for identifying bands, a bright yellow neck band with black numerals and black letters appears to be the effort of a Moscow professor N.N. Gerasimov. Prof. Gerasimov banded 33 individuals of the Aleutian Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis leucopareia*) with a bright yellow neck band and black numerals and letters at the Kuril Islands, which are in dispute between Russia and Japan in the Far East. I have e-mailed Professor Gerasimov in Moscow for confirmation. If this is in fact the correct band, Mrs. C. Goose has traveled quite a ways to set up her nest at Miramar! Be careful if you approach Mrs. C. Goose to look at her band, Mr. C. Goose has a mean hiss.



The female goose has a tagging device that may prove she came from as far as the Kuril Islands off the coast of Russia.